

Minutes from the Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held 21 April 1995, at 10:00 a.m. in AD-131, Loyola Campus.

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Ms. J. Chegrinec, secretary; Mr. B. Counihan; Mr. H. Zarins; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. R. Côté; Ms. D. Cooper; Dr. G. Alfred; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. D. Leib; Mr. S. Zacharias; Ms. A. Robinson; Dr. R. Bonin; Ms. L. Lipscombe; Mr. C. Macdonald.

Absent with regrets: Ms. C. Fortier; Ms. J. Murray; Mr. D. Ellison; Ms. A. Shorter; Mr. D. Bobker; Dr. I.M. Barlow; Ms. K. Hedrich; Mr. B. Smart; Ms. A. Vroom.

Guest: Ms. D. Gleason for Ms. Hedrich; Ms. A. Flynn.

1. Approval of the Agenda: On a motion by Mr. Leib, seconded by Mr. Côté, the agenda was approved.
2. Remarks from the Chair: a) **Adjusted Student Services Operating Budget, 1995/96** - The document was distributed and introduced and the Chair opened the floor for questions. Each Director responded to Mr. Leib's question on how the adjusted budget would affect their specific areas. Dr. Boisvert emphasized that the adjusted budget would not have a negative impact on services to students in any area.

Dr. Boisvert explained to Ms. Grimes what the Directors meant when they stated that most of the cuts to their budgets would be covered by the benefit changes. When the original 3-year budget was approved, benefit costs were estimated at 3% - 4% higher than actual - this provided a cushion to absorb cost cuts.

It was explained that the Dean of Students salary, and the salary of one of his secretaries, were paid directly by the University from a government grant received for that purpose. Also, the Department of Recreation & Athletics has assumed a greater responsibility for increasing revenue.

Ms. Torbit asked CCSL members to comment on her ideas for summer service; these included closing the Loyola office for the month of July. She had no statistics available at the present time as to the usage of the office last year. Mr. Zacharias suggested that if the statistics indicate that either June or August are less busy, these months also be considered for closure.

3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of 17 March 1995

Item #7 -the Alumni Office, through the Affinity Card, had awarded \$75,000 towards emergency loans - not \$5,000.

Page 2 - correct spelling of Ms. K. Hedrich.

On a motion by Mr. Côté, seconded by Ms. Torbit, the minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) **Response to "Dealing with the Cuts"** - the CCSL response, prepared by the Planning and Resources Committee, was forwarded to Dr. H. Proppe, Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Finance.

b) **Report on the Task Force on Child Care Issues** - Ms. Kerby, Chair of the Task Force, focused on section 11, Summary of Recommendations, by reviewing each recommendation and asking members for comments and suggestions.

1. This recommendation would have to be approved by the APC and the Registrar's Office. Mr. Côté asked for a re-wording, as the "sick parents" statement is confusing. Ms. Torbit asked about the entire issue of notes for illness and Ms. Kerby said that the matter will be addressed.

2. There are no questions related to this area at the University.

3. No guidelines currently exist. Mr. Counihan said that children are occasionally involved in student association functions.

4. The Task Force felt this was the top recommendation. There would be no need for expensive facilities. Mr. Côté suggested that the survey mentioned on page 6 be implemented and used to support a case for this service.

5. & 6. The SGW daycare is presently housed in the Masonic Temple which was not designed for a daycare. The board is attempting to work through space problems. At this time the SGW daycare is minimally accessible by wheelchair. The Loyola daycare is fully accessible on the main floor.

7. This recommendation would entail an examination of the way the daycares are managed. Since the daycares are independent, the University would have to examine funding and services offered. Ms. Grimes was informed that in order not to lose their not-for-profit status the daycares have to remain independent. Ms. Grimes also inquired about a student co-operative, and was told that it was possible but the fees would be too high. Ms. Kerby said that a pro-rata distribution of funds would not be effective.

8. The Task Force felt this was a necessary standard recommendation. SGW currently does not accept infants and has just recently lowered its age

requirement from 24 to 18 months.

9. & 10. Mr. Leiby asked if it wouldn't be possible to mandate a sub-group of CCSL to handle items 9 & 10. Ms. Kerby said it would ultimately just be another committee; the community has to realize that the daycares touch all facets of the University. Dr. Boisvert said that there had been discussions about forming one standing committee chaired by the Director of Advocacy.

Mr. Côté asked that if the daycares are separate and autonomous, is the University trying to impose and create links so that the Concordia would be determining the agenda and needs of the daycares? Ms. Torbit said that Health Services is currently always having to examine the role that the department has with the daycares. They try to develop good liaison as opposed to direct service.

11. & 12. The Task Force thought that this could be offered to the community as an additional benefit.

13. This is a minor recommendation which is easily implemented.

14. Have people buy into the programme.

Dr. Boisvert mandated Ms. Kerby to examine methods of implementation of these recommendations and to report to Council in the fall.

5. Report from the Planning & Resources Committee

a) **Student Issues for CUFA/CUPFA Negotiations** - Mr. Leiby reported that he has been talking to the Associate Vice-Rector, Academic and it was his intention to table a "wish-list" at Council next month.

Mr. Zarins informed Council that two meetings of the Committee had been held which discussed general issues.

6. Student Life Issues

Ms. Grimes asked that if Dr. Barlow couldn't be at the May meeting, if he would provide his response to the summer shuttle bus schedule in writing.

In response to Mr. Leiby's question about the re-shelving problem, Dr. Bonin said that it took quite a while to get permission to hire part-time people to re-shelf. Consequently, the library is approximately 2-weeks behind. The union has agreed to allow desk people to shelve books. Dr. Bonin told Ms. Grimes that he felt that the situation was under control and that the union recognizes the priority of re-shelving.

Mr. Zacharias extended congratulations to the "clock team" for finally getting the clocks repaired.

Dr. Bonin addressed the issue of restricted access which will be in place for 2 weeks in December and 2 weeks in April. During this period only Concordia students will be allowed to use the Library facilities because of lack of space. This programme is already in effect at McGill. Dr. Bonin is hopeful that at an upcoming meeting of Library Directors a consensus on the issue can be reached. Mr. Zacharias asked if sharing periodicals could also be discussed at this meeting. Dr. Bonin replied that all cancellations of periodicals are done in consolidation with the understanding that any cancellation at one institution is due to retention at another; unfortunately this doesn't always work and everyone cancels the same one. An attempt is being made to handle the process electronically.

Ms. Lipscombe informed Council that she has been approached by the publishing industry which is anxious to arrange a symposium with students. She is asking for names of two students who would sit on the panel as well as meet with the publishers. Ms. Grimes will deal with her in making the necessary arrangements.

Ms. Lipscombe also said that she has been lobbying McGraw-Hill and others and discussed with them the feasibility of photocopying portions of textbooks which would result in lower costs on very expensive books, especially in Engineering.

Ms. Lipscombe continued by issuing a warning that the price of paper is rising dramatically, consequently book prices may rise by 5 to 10% in the near future.

7. Reports from the Directors

Before hearing from Dr. S.M. Graub, Director, Counselling & Development, Ms. Grimes asked Mr. Counihan if the \$1,000 that had been available for graduate students in the special projects account had been allocated. Mr. Counihan responded that it had.

Dr. Graub - as agreed at the last meeting, Dr. Graub concentrated her report on two areas of Counselling & Development - exam anxiety and job search.

The department has four major work teams and sub-teams. A holistic humanistic approach is taken towards exam anxiety. The unit feels that if you don't deal with anxiety it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy. They take the student through a process of problem solving which sometimes indicates that the exam itself is just a trigger and many other factors may be causing the

anxiety. The staff deals with symptomatic relief and then has the student return after the exam for on-going help. It is possible that one student could use all the professional skills of each work team.

Mr. Leibu asked how long the waiting period was and how it varied. Dr. Graub responded that during peak periods the staff try to juggle appointments but that there is a waiting period - it used to be 3 weeks, but this has been cut down. They have introduced a drop-in session and have toughened up on no-shows. Mr. Zacharias asked if any students are referred for medical help. Dr. Graub said that the unit works closely with Health Services, and, after a diagnosis is made, will refer the student to Health Services if necessary.

Dr. Graub then discussed CAPS, saying that students now are much more goal oriented and job hunting has become the preoccupation of students. The unit teaches skills on job hunting, offers a video, and has clubs which provide a supportive climate for graduates who are having difficulty finding employment. They produce a newsletter, have handouts which they mail to academic departments as well as job postings. The unit is devising electronic job boards and hoping to list jobs on e-mail.

Next month Mr. H. Zarins, Director, Recreation & Athletics, will address Council.

8. New Business

a) **Student Bill of Rights** - Ms. A. Flynn, Vice-President, Academic, CSU, addressed the proposed Student Bill of Rights. She informed Council that the document had been forwarded to all academic departments and Faculties for their comments and input, and asked Council to provide her with content suggestions and comment on specific clauses. Council endorsement of the document would be appreciated.

Ms. Kerby said that before endorsing the document she would like to know if revisions would be made before the document was forwarded to Senate. Ms. Flynn responded that the document would go in its present format with comments from departments and individuals attached.

Ms. Kerby continued by saying that the document contained regulations which were in conflict with existing regulations; she also found that the language was too general in some areas, which may cause the document to be refused outright. Ms. Torbit asked why the document contained only rights and not responsibilities as well. It was suggested that the title of the document was more American than Canadian and perhaps should be changed to "Charter of Rights".

Mr. Leiby responded by saying that the regulations established by the University outline student responsibilities. The Bill provides students with their own rights which provides a balance. He asked for CCSL endorsement and forwarding to Senate. Ms. Grimes asked that a full contingent of students be present before the Bill is endorsed.

Dr. Bonin suggested that the text be edited. Dr. Boisvert asked if the Bill should be expanded to include "level of service". Ms. Kerby pointed out that some of the items asked for are not available and the University would have to change some practices and policies. She asked if it was the intent of CSU to have Senate pass the Bill and then tell them to implement it?

Mr. Zacharias suggested that the conflicts of the collective agreements with the Bill be examined and more dialogue created. Ms. Flynn responded that this process was already underway. Mr. Leiby said that in regards to any issues of conflicts, the Bill is stating this is what students would like to have, but they will adapt and change as is necessary and desirable.

Dr. Alfred pointed out that sections 2.4 to 2.9 is in conflict with the current CUFA agreement. He said he agrees with what the students are asking but the statement should be more specific; currently there is a vagueness which will cause difficulty in having it accepted.

Mr. Zacharias felt that more negotiations were necessary. Ms. Grimes said that many regulations of the University are not written for students and cause dissatisfaction. She continued by saying that if the Bill is contradictory, don't dilute it just to get it passed by Senate.

Mr. Counihan said that Ms. Flynn has asked for specific comments; general statements are of little help to her at this point. Dr. Boisvert encouraged all members to provide Ms. Flynn with concrete, written suggestions/comments. He indicated that another discussion will be held at the May meeting.

9. Next Meeting:

Friday, 19 May 1995, SGW Campus.

10. Termination of Meeting:

On a motion by Mr. Leiby and seconded by Ms. Torbit, the meeting terminated at 1:45 p.m.